

EYE HAZARDS.

The Industrial Accident Commission of the State of California has a Safety Department that is doing noteworthy work. By means of a system of safety orders, rules and regulations prepared by committees of employers, employees and others especially interested in each industry, the standards of safety are not only reasonable, but have the advantage of consideration by practical men. This plan is much better than that followed in many states of having legislative committees, usually composed of lawyers, pass specific laws that frequently are impracticable and in need of amendment.

Last month the Journal published a synopsis of an address delivered by Will J. French, of the California Industrial Accident Commission, before the Section on Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat of the San Francisco County Medical Society. His subject was eye injuries in California's industries and the ways of preventing them, and he emphasized in striking fashion the prevalence of eye hazards in industry and the work of the California Industrial Accident Commission in preventing blindness. French states that of the 30,000 killed and 2,000,000 injured in each year in the United States, 200,000 represent eye injuries, and that more than 50 per cent of the 100,000 blind in the United States are needlessly blind. Of 56 types of industrial poisoning, 36 affect the eyes. These figures compel attention and give added interest to the educational and regulatory propaganda of the Industrial Accident Commission. Visitors are cordially invited to inspect the Safety Museum maintained at 529 Market Street, San Francisco.

RED CHEVRON.

During the past month members of the State Medical Society have been receiving communications from the Red Chevron organization, asking them to enter upon an agreement to furnish medical services to the families of soldiers and sailors—without remuneration.

The physicians thus employed are to be given a distinctive badge—a red chevron—as a mark of honor.

The president of this organization is Marshall Breeden and the medical director is Charles T. Cutting.

The attention of the Council was directed to this movement and a thorough investigation undertaken before passing judgment on its merits.

It is the policy of the Government to discourage organizations which duplicate work, or try to cover ground which is already covered by other efforts. The Red Cross should have no competitors. Every County Medical Society has volunteered free medical aid to the families of sailors and soldiers. The Voluntary Medical Service Corps segregates those physicians who are ineligible for military service and will delegate them relief work of a similar nature.

Going into the question of the management of the Red Chevron, it is a conspicuous fact, and not a complimentary one, that the manager of the or-

ganization was also the business manager of Dr. Albert Abrams' "Electronic Laboratory." The medical director of the Red Chevron is Dr. Charles Cutting, who is not licensed to practice medicine in the State of California.

The motives of those behind the venture may be very philanthropic and disinterested, but at all events there is a duplication of effort, and not by leaders in our profession on its medical side.

Taking all these features into consideration the Council finds itself unable to recommend that our members participate in the Red Chevron movement and definitely withholds its approval.

If you have joined, cancel your agreement. If you have not joined, don't.

FOR ARMY PHARMACEUTICAL CORPS.

The Edmonds bill (H. R. 5531) should not fail of passage by Congress. It is designed to increase the efficiency of the Medical Department of the United States Army, and would meet a very real need and emergency by creating in the Army a corps of pharmacists for important technical and professional duty.

Almost every prominent nation in the world has recognized the service which a Pharmaceutical Corps can render in the Army, and even in our own service, the Marine Corps, which is doing such splendid service in France, includes under the name of Hospital Corps a group of trained pharmacists, who are rendering splendid service and proving the effectiveness of such an organization. The Hospital Corpsmen of the Marines and of the Navy are doing the type of work which it is proposed to turn over to a Pharmaceutical Corps in the Army. These men, especially when attached to the Marines, have charge of the medical supplies, look after much of the sanitary work about the camp, see that the food and water supplies are adequate and of the proper quality, dispense medicines, act as superintendents of small hospitals, do clinical analysis and bacteriologic work, do the "paper work," and become in fact an all-around aid to the medical officers. Such men are specially trained for this class of work, and this is exactly what is proposed for the Pharmaceutical Corps of the Army. If graduate pharmacists who already have the foundation work in the medical sciences, are given the special training in Army schools, they will rapidly qualify for positions in the Pharmaceutical Corps and thus relieve the dearth of medical officers in our rapidly expanding Army and be of incalculable service to the medical department.

THE NEW CRIMINOLOGY.

One of the most attractive fields of study open to physicians is that which is being found in the gradually growing science of criminology. But a few years ago a man in jail was thought to be merely bad and retribution necessary. Lately, however, due almost entirely to the studies of physicians, a very close relation has been found between mental disease and crime. The more we know of the subject the greater the factor of abnormal mentality appears to be. The bad man is found to be either so unintelligent as to know no better